

## Jude

### *Contend for the Faith*

#### Section 1 - verses 1-2: Greeting

Believers are called, loved and kept.

- (1) Called unto good works.
- (2) Loved by God.
- (3) Kept under the Lordship of Christ.

Believers are to long for mercy, peace and love to be multiplied in their lives.

#### Section 2 – verses 3-4: Jude’s Purpose in Writing

One of the great dangers the church has consistently faced with each passing generation is false doctrine and a distorting of the gospel boldly proclaimed by false teachers. A misuse of God’s Word to lead people astray isn’t new. It actually started in the Garden of Eden. We read in Genesis 3 how the serpent challenged the true understanding of God’s Word and then Eve misquoted Scripture in response which led to sin.

We will learn from Jude that the great danger to the church is not those that boldly deny Christ...the great danger to the church is those that claim Christ yet manipulate the Words of Christ. Which is why Jude tells us to “contend” for the faith. As one commentary explains (The Broadman Bible Commentary page 236):

*To contend means to agonize for. It was the word for military or athletic hand-to-hand wrestling with an opponent.*

Believers must fight to stay true to the Word of God. Peter warns us in 2 Peter 2:1-3 of the dangers of false teachings.

Who are these false teachers we are warned against? They are described as ungodly, sensual and denying. Their character is ungodly, their conduct is self-indulgent and their creed is denying the Lordship of Jesus. This is in sharp contrast to the believers described in verse 1 (called, loved and kept).

	Believer (v. 1)	False Teacher (v. 4)
Character	Called into good works	Ungodly
Conduct (source of)	Loved by God	Self-indulgent loved by the world
Creed	Kept under the Lordship of Christ	Denying the Lordship of Christ

#### Section 3 – verses 5-11: False Teachers: Past and Present

In verse 8 we see the problem that traps false teachers...they rely upon their dreams. We are commanded throughout all of Scripture to rely upon truth. What is this truth we are to rely upon? God’s Word is the truth as stated by Jesus in John 17:17 (CSB).

If you are relying on anything other than God’s Word to guide you through life...you will be misled. Our emotions, experiences, desires and reason should always be submitted to the Word of God. We must test all things and hold to the truth (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

In verse 11 we see a “woe” statement. Woe to you if you lead others astray with false doctrine and teach a distorted gospel. False teachers have always been a battle for the church. Today is no different. The church in America has

been infiltrated with many false teachers over the last 250+ years. Two of the most popular false teachings today are modalism and the kenosis theory.

What is modalism? Modalism claims that there is One person who appears to us in three or more different forms or modes or essences. At various times people have taught that God is not really three distinct persons, but only one person who appears to people in different “modes” at different times.

What is the kenosis theory? The kenosis theory holds that Christ gave up some of His divine attributes while He was on earth as a man. According to the theory Christ “emptied Himself” of some of His divine attributes, such as omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, while He was on earth as a man.

#### **Section 4 – verses 12-19: The False Teachers are Doomed**

God deals harshly with those that manipulate His Word. It doesn’t matter if your motives were “in the right place” ...if you manipulate God’s Word His wrath is kindled against you.

Jude goes on to explain the heart condition of false teachers. They only look out for themselves and they are waterless clouds, fruitless, waves of the sea and wandering stars. Basically, they are empty. They do not have the Holy Spirit filling their lives. Therefore, they are tossed from place to place doctrinally and spiritually based on the popular movement of the day or wherever their hearts take them.

Jude continues by mentioning that they are ungodly five times in verses 15-18. False teachers are not of God. They may claim to be God’s chosen prophets, but that does not make it so. As verse 19 says they are without the Spirit. Jesus explained this in Matthew 7:21-23 (CSB).

Claiming the name of Jesus and performing signs and wonders doesn’t make one a true believer. A true believer is one that is submitted to Christ and His Word despite how they feel or what they think. Surrender is a word that should describe a believer. Surrendered to the Lordship of Christ. As Romans 10:9 (CSB) says.

#### **Section 5 – verses 20-25: The Challenge and Doxology**

To close out his letter, Jude again draws a contrast between false teachers and true believers. In verse 20 we are reminded that true believers are able to pray in the Holy Spirit. As we read in verse 19, false teachers do not have the Holy Spirit.

Jude is also commanding them to show mercy to others. What is the greatest act of mercy we can show someone? Love them enough to share the gospel with them.

Verse 25 ends with this amazing doxology: To God our Savior be GLORY, MAJESTY, POWER, and AUTHORITY before, now and forever! These things do not belong to man. They only belong to God Himself.

### **Discussion Questions**

- ❖ What are the implications of being called by God?
- ❖ Why should we long for mercy, peace and love to be multiplied?
- ❖ How can an individual contend for the faith? How can the church contend for the faith?
- ❖ Why should the Word of God be our source of truth and wisdom?
- ❖ How can we recognize false teachings?
- ❖ What are the characteristics of a true believer?
- ❖ Does your life look sharply different than the world in which you live?
- ❖ Are you faithfully only attributing glory, majesty, power and authority to the Father?